Doordarshan Programmes in Regional Languages

1111. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'News Today' of 11th July, 86 under the caption "TV offers nothing to southerners" ;

(b) whether it is a fact that large number of letters have been received by Doordarshan Kendras in the South with complaints that the TV has nothing to offer to an average southerner except news, sports, glimpses of VIPs;

(c) whether it is a fact that the reception quality of the second channel is poor since most of the programmes shown in the second channel are the rejects of the first channel; and

(d) if so, what steps Government contemplate for introducing local programmes on Sundays from Regional Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) No, Sir. No doubt there have been occasional complaints from some viewers, a large section of viewers in the South appreciate Doordarshan serials, educational and informative programmes, as per findings of the surveys conducted in that region.

(c) The second channel at Bombay and Delhi operate on a 1 KW Transmitter as against 10 KW Transmitter for the main channel. As such the range of the second channel transmitter is restricted. It is, however not correct that the pogrammes telecast on the second channel are the rejects of the first channel.

(d) Many regional Kendras of Doordarshan already telecast regional language programmes on Sundays in the morning hours before joining Delhi. Under the VII Plan three tier service for Doordarshan is envisaged, primary (National) Regional and Local. The Regional and Local segments will telecast programmes in the main language of the region, till the start of national programme.

Painting of doors and windows of quarters in Kali Bari Marg, New Delhi

1112. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the doors and windows of quarters in J and H Block in Kali Bari Marg, New Delhi, have not been painted for the last many years and also the broken window glasses have not been replaced; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make arrangements for painting the doors of the said quarters and also to construct sheds for shade in the balcony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) It is not so. According to maintenance norms painting of doors and windows is done once in three years. Efforts are made to cover as many as quarters as possible subject to availability of funds. Broken window glasses are replaced as and when a complaint is received.

(b) It is proposed to cover 175 quarters in J Block and 150 quarters in H Block for painting of doors during the current year. There is no such proposal to construct sheds for shade in the balcony.